

Independent Living Advisory Council (ILAC)
BlindSight Delaware
2915 Newport Gap Pike
Wilmington, DE 19808
March 12, 2019

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Wayne Marsh at 11:31AM.

Attendees:

Wayne Marsh, Committee Chairperson; Patti Addison, Council Co-Chairperson; Melodye May, Division for the Visually Impaired; Blake Roberts, Council Member; Lynn Snyder, Council Member; Carol Miller, Council Member; August Hazuer, Council Member; Carol King-Ries, Council Member; Jill Morrison, Division for the Visually Impaired; Suzanne Howell, Council Member; Mary Marsh, Guest; Ken Rolph, Council Member; Kathryn Bottner, Council Member; and Debra Mills-Joe, Division for the Visually Impaired.

Minutes of the September 2018 and December 2018 Meeting:

Minutes of the September and December were tabled for next meeting.

New Business

The Division for the Visually Impaired's Joint Finance Committee Hearing was held on February 19, 2019. Although DVI requested funding for Education Services, it did not include resources for Independent Living specifically. DVI is seeking to reallocate administrative costs from the grant to the state. DVI is not hiring for the vacant Vision Rehabilitation Therapist or Administrative Specialist.

There are no updates on the Sunset process.

DVI continues to receive feedback regarding the client satisfaction surveys and is making appropriate adjustments.

Now that the video of the Vocational Rehabilitation program is completed; the next video will feature the Business Enterprise Program.

DVI has developed a new partnership with the Delaware Optometric Association. This will expand membership beyond eye care professionals and provide an additional spectrum for the Division to showcase their services and reach potential individuals with visual obstacles.

All units of the Division with the exception of the Business Enterprise Program, have been working collaboratively to bring a variety of Expanded Core Curriculum programs to their students.

BlindSight

There was a tribute to William (Bill) Bartlett, who was a longtime client of DVI and member of the Independent Living Advisory Committee (ILAC).

BlindSight will be starting a new Peer Support group in Kent County, in the Dover area.

- ❖ Chat & Chew on March 26, 2019 at BlindSight.
- ❖ April 9, 2019 a dispatcher from Smart-911 will attend. The event is from 10:00 AM – 12:00 attendees are asked to bring their medication list.
- ❖ April 20, 2019 Roller Skating in Dover
- ❖ May 18, 2019 Bowling @ Milford Lanes 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM
- ❖ DABA will be celebrating 40 years of services at the Minquadale Banquet Hall, Friday, October 4, 2019

Upcoming Activities:

- ❖ Transition Spring Break April 22-26, 2019
- ❖ May 2019, University of Delaware is offering Microsoft classes from 8-12 Noon and services will be available to all interested.
- ❖ Envision Level Up Middle School- June 23-28, 2019
- ❖ Summer Academy- July 8-19, 2019
- ❖ Summer Celebration- July 19, 2019
- ❖ Camp Abilities- July 22-26, 2019
- ❖ BELL Academy- August (TBD)
- ❖ Space Camp- September 28-October 4, 2019
- ❖ Senior High Beach House- October (TBD)

Independent Living Services:

DVI Social Service Administrator Melodye May attended the Older Blind Program Manager's Meeting at the American Foundation of the Blind Leadership Conference from February 27 – March 1, 2019. A roundtable discussion was held on providing effective direct service by evaluating staff and monitoring outcomes.

The Delaware Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) members are developing a new State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for the years 2020-2023.

Those interested in serving on the committee may apply on the Governor's website.

Comments:

Committee Member Suzanne Howell made the comment that the state has too many committees and there is a need to consolidate with similarities.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Wayne Marsh at 1:30 and seconded by Ken Rolph.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Mills Joe